

REMARKS

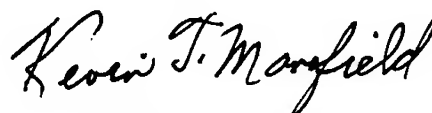
Claims 1-25 and 31-39 are pending. Claims 6-7,10-12, 14-17, 19, 21-22, 24-26 and 32 have been amended by replacement. Said claims have been amended to reduce filing fees by reducing the number of independent claims and eliminating multiple dependency, and to provide minor clarification by eliminating multiple ranges. No other claims have been amended. Claims 33-39 have been added.

Another version of the amended claims, showing the changes relative to the previous version, is appended. Additions are shown by underlining. Deletions are shown by strikethrough rather than bracketing since the claims may contain bracketing that is to remain.

Newly added claims 33-39 are supported by originally filed claims 26-30 and the disclosure from page 9, last paragraph through page 15, third paragraph. No new matter has been added.

Applicants aver that the claims are now in proper form for examination. An Action on the merits of the claims is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-up Version of Amended Claims

6. **(amend d)** A compound according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 5~~ in which the amino acid from which each amino acid residue R₁ is derived is aspartic acid or iminodiacetic acid.

7. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 1 ~~or 2~~ in which R₁ is a linear C₁-C₄-alkylene residue which is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-hydroxy- or alkoxy-alkoxy, -OCOM, -OCOC₁-C₄-alkyl, and M being is as previously defined in claim 1.

10. **(amended)** A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 9~~ in which the group R₂ represents a linear C₁-C₄-alkylene residue which is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-hydroxy or alkoxyalkoxy, -OCOM, -OCOC₁-C₄-alkyl, -CO₂M, -CO₂C₁-C₄-alkyl, SO₃M, phenoxy which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, -CO₂M or -CO₂C₁-C₄-alkyl, NH₂ or mono- or disubstituted amino and M is as defined in claim 1.

11. **(amended)** A compound according to claim 10 in which the group R₂ represents a methylene, ethylene or propylene residue which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-hydroxy- or alkoxy-alkoxy, -OCOM, -OCOC₁-C₄-alkyl, -CO₂M, -CO₂C₁-C₄-alkyl, SO₃M or di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, ~~whereby M is as defined in claim 1.~~

12. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 10 ~~or 11~~ in which R₂ is hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, ethoxyethyl, hydroxyethoxyethyl, methoxyethoxyethyl, an acetic or propionic acid residue or methyl or ethyl esters thereof, an ethyl or methyl acetate, dimethylaminoethyl or ethyl sulphonic acid or the sodium salt thereof.

14. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 1 ~~or 2~~ in which each R₂ is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 SO₃M, SO₂NHC₁-C₄-alkyl, -SO₂NH₂, -CO₂M, -CO₂C₁-C₄-alkyl, -CONH₂, -CONHC₁-C₄-alkyl, -NHCOC₁-C₄-alkyl or mono- or disubstituted amino groups, wherein M is as defined in claim 1.

15. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 14 in which each R₂ is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one SO₃M, -SO₂NH₂ or -NHCOC₁-C₄-alkyl group.

16. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 14 ~~or 15~~ in which each R₂ is phenyl.

17. **(amended)** A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~ in which R_3 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, halogen, cyano, SO_3M , $-SO_2NH_2$, SO_2NHC_1 - C_4 -alkyl, $-CO_2M$, $-CO_2C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, $-CONH_2$, $-CONHC_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, or $-NHCOC_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, M being defined as in claim 1 and m is 1.

19. **(amended)** A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1~~ in which M is hydrogen, Na, K, Ca, Mg, ammonium, mono-, di-, tri- or tetra- C_1 - C_4 alkylammonium, mono-, di- or tri- C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkylammonium or ammonium that is di- or tri-substituted with a mixture of C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl groups.

21. **(amended)** A compound of formula 1 according to claim 1 in which:

R_1 is an amino acid residue derived from aspartic acid or iminodiacetic acid,

R_2 is hydroxyethyl,

R_3 is hydrogen and

M is sodium.

22. **(amended)** A compound of formula 1 according to claim 1 in which:

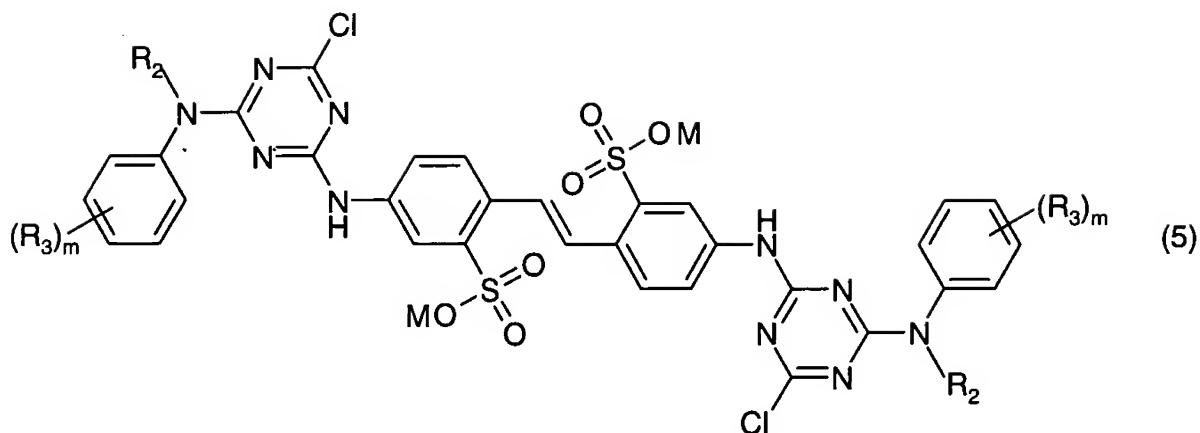
R_1 is a 2-methoxyethylamino residue,

R_2 is a sodium acetate residue,

R_3 is hydrogen and

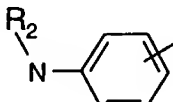
M is sodium.

24. **(amended)** A process Use of the compound of formula (5) of claim 23 for the preparation of a compound of the formula (1) according to claim 1, which comprises reacting the compound of formula



with a compound capable of introducing a group R_1 in place of X, in which R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , M and m are as defined in claim 1.

25. (amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1 by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diamino-2,2'-stilbene disulphonic acid, an amino compound capable of introducing a

group  in which R_2 , R_3 and m have their previous significance, and a

compound capable of introducing a group R_1 , in which R_1 is as defined in claim 1 has its previous significance.

32. (amended) ~~A Brightener~~ compositions according to claim 31 containing water and, in each case based on the weight of the formulation, from 3 to 25% by weight, preferably from 5 to 15% by weight of the above defined fluorescent whitening agent mixture and also 0 to 60%, preferably 5 to 50% by weight, of auxiliaries.